

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Alaskan Wood Moulding

#### Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership

#### Alaskan Wood Moulding Fulfills Employment Need with Apprenticeship Program

**Client Profile:**

Alaskan Wood Moulding (AWM) is a manufacturer of custom moulding and millwork used in residential and commercial buildings. AWM specializes in complicated or difficult woodwork, such as antique restorations, spiral staircases or special joinery. The company employs 7 people at its facility in Anchorage, Alaska.

**Situation:**

Business had been steady for AWM through the recession, and the company was looking to hire a new entry level employee. The skill requirements for the new employee were primarily foundational -- as long as the employee had an aptitude for working with their hands, showed up on time and was eager to learn, AWM would teach the basic and advanced skills needed to be productive. The company called upon the Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership (AMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help in identifying resources to develop new employees.

**Solution:**

AMEP was familiar with an apprenticeship program at the state Department of Labor & Workforce Development. AMEP helped the company create the job terms description needed to secure state and federal apprenticeship requirements. Through the program, AWM will be eligible to receive tax benefits and wage subsidies to reduce the workforce training costs related to getting the apprentice up to speed on the shop floor. As a result of AMEP's assistance, AWM is hiring a new employee from a vocational high school who has a working knowledge of shop tools and techniques.

**Results:**

\* Created 1 job.

**Testimonial:**

"I appreciate the AMEP and the Department of Labor for working together to help us improve our business, offset some of our training costs, and find us a good young worker."

Mark Stearns, President